

at me. We looked at each other for what seemed like a very long time. Finally, a lifetime's worth of questions came tumbling out.

"Did you ever care how I was doing?" I asked him.

"No," he replied uncertainly.

"Did you ever try and get in touch with me?"

"No," he looked at me blankly.

"Did you ever even care what happened to me?"

"No."

At this point Clementine intervened: "I don't even think he knows what you're asking."

I stood there a moment, resigning myself to the situation. I would never get an explanation for his absence from my life. Then Joseph, one of the young men who'd guided me to the house and who I now realized was my half-brother, beckoned me out of the room. In the hallway, he asked if I'd like to visit some of my other relatives living nearby. I said yes and he took me outside. We crossed the street to a narrow house where an elderly woman was waiting for us. Joseph introduced her to me as my Aunt Ethel. She cordially invited us in.

Ethel had married my father's brother and served as the family's unofficial archivist and historian. As we talked, she asked if I knew anything about my father's family. I said no. Ethel showed me some photos. She told me that his mother, born in 1890, was named Fannie Self Conerly, and that they spelled it with one n then. She said that Fannie's mother was Sarah Ford Lovely, who had died at the age of 98, when I was a boy. This woman, my great-grandmother, had been born a slave.

After I walked back to my father's house and sat for a while beside him. I stood and said, "I've got to be going. You take care of yourself."

"You too," he said to me. "You ever coming back this way again, Billy?"

I smiled and waved and left without answering, and without asking him the one question that was still on my mind: Did you beat my mother like they say? Did you hasten her death and thus deprive me of both of you?

On the drive back to New Orleans I thought about my discoveries—this sickly old man who was my life's most intimate stranger; the fact that his blood and mine had once been owned by another human being. I felt subtly altered, but still the same. My father's gift to me, if you could call it that, was a deeper realization that it is not the life we're given that counts, but the life we make of the life we're given.●

DELAWARE RT. 52—KENNETT PIKE, NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY DESIGNATION

● Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I rise today to offer my continued endorsement for the Federal Highway Administration's National Scenic Byways Program, and to express my support for the Kennett Pike Preservation Committee's efforts to seek both state and federal scenic byways designation for Route 52, the Kennett Pike, in New Castle County, Delaware.

The National Scenic Byways Program recognizes roadways that exhibit outstanding examples of scenic, historic, recreational, cultural, archeological or natural qualities along their routes. The Kennett Pike boasts a number of cultural, scenic, historic and

recreational values that I believe make it an excellent candidate for federal designation as a national scenic byway.

Originally constructed in the 1700's and named Doe Run, the Kennett Pike maintains much of its original character, despite more than 200 years of steady development in the area. During the Revolutionary War, General George Washington and his troops were thought to have marched along the road, and, during the Civil War, soldiers settled at Camp Brandywine, now the location of an intersection on the Pike.

Along its route, not only will you find world renown tourist attractions, including Winterthur Museum, Hagley Museum and Longwood Gardens, but also historic villages, numerous inns, farms, parks and mills. Within the Kennett Pike Corridor, over 30 sites are already listed on the National Register of Historic Places, with many more sites in the corridor also eligible for the historic designation.

In addition to its historic and cultural relevance, the Kennett Pike has been designated a greenway by the State of Delaware. A ride along the Pike reveals a beautiful landscape of rolling hills, forests and a state park. The Kennett Pike is truly a gem among the ever increasingly populated suburban landscape of the middle Atlantic region.

In the Fall of 1999, the State of Delaware received a grant from the Federal Highway Administration, in the amount of \$140,000, to establish a state scenic byways program. A roadway can only be nominated for a national scenic byway designation after it has been designated on the state level.

It is my hope that the State will act quickly and implement its scenic byways program, so I can continue my efforts to see that Route 52, the Kennett Pike, is designated the first national scenic byway in the State of Delaware.●

A TRIBUTE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, on June 9, 2000, at the annual State Conference of the Fraternal Order of Police in Lansing, Michigan, there will be a memorial service honoring seventy-four law enforcement officers who have died over the past year, four of whom died in the line of duty. I rise today in their memory, and to thank them posthumously for their many courageous efforts.

There is perhaps no greater sign of dedication to a community than risking one's life to protect it. Law enforcement officers do this on a daily basis. They risk their lives to ensure that our streets and our neighborhoods are safe. We must not let ourselves forget the incredible dedication that these men and women have to the people they protect. Theirs should not be a thankless job.

Mr. President, the comfort, the protection, and the safety that we enjoy

often comes at a very high price to the law enforcement officers themselves. Last year, in the State of Michigan, four officers were killed in the line of duty. In the name of protecting our communities, and our families, they left behind their own communities, and their own families.

As a tribute to these four officers, Mr. President, I would like to have their names inserted into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Officer Leslie (Les) Keely of the Flint Police Department, Trooper Frederick Hardy, Michigan State Police, Detroit Post, Trooper Rick Lee Johnson, Michigan State Police, Paw Paw Post, Officer Gary Priess, DeWitt Township Police.

I do this not only on behalf of myself, but on behalf of all of my constituents, as a symbol of our appreciation and our gratitude for the work that law enforcement officers do every day throughout the State of Michigan. While this is a small gesture, I hope it will hold some meaning to their families and their fellow officers.●

TRIBUTE TO JOHN P. SPUTZ

● Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, it is a distinct honor for me to pay tribute to John P. Sputz on the occasion of his retirement from BAE Systems North America.

Mr. President, for more than four decades, John has devoted his life to serving this country's defense needs. Under John's leadership, he and I worked together to further the efforts of the Link-16 program. This program, which includes systems that use secure, anti-jam, line-of-sight data radio communications, has moved from the research phase in 1971 to a major Defense Department program in the 1990s. Thanks to John, this program is about to go into service for the Army, Navy and Air Force as well as for our allies in NATO and elsewhere.

John was also responsible for developing and expanding programs like the F-22 advanced tactical fighter program, the Joint Striker Fighter Program and the programmable digital radio technologies that will one day replace all legacy radios with cost-effective and flexible communications systems.

Mr. President, John's commitment to BAE Systems North America is unsurpassed. Even after retiring, John will continue serving his company as President of MIDSCO, a multi-national joint venture company which helped manage the development of the MIDS Program. I hope the example that John set will inspire BAE Systems North America to achieve even higher goals. I know I speak for everyone who knows John when I thank him for his dedication to our country and wish him the very best in the future.●